

Recommendations of the Innovative Pedestrian Signal Engineering Subcommittee:

Resolution:

Pedestrian and bicycle casualties are and continue to be a problem for citizens of our County, and our elected officials having understood this problem have made its solution a priority. As part of that effort, the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee was formed to research the problem and advise the Executive on possible solutions. One problem that has come to light is an often high rate of users not using the system as intended by the designers. While this high rate of noncompliance is typically attributed to the user, it may in small or even large part be due to inadequacies in the design or poor overall functioning of the existing pedestrian infrastructure. To understand if this is the case, a network level study would be needed. However, research by the Committee found that such a study could not even be started because there is no inventory of the relevant infrastructure.

As such, the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee recommends the following **actions**:

- Priority and necessary resources be given to coordinating the partial inventory that does exist.
- Completing the inventory portions that do not exist.
- Using that inventory as the basis of network wide analysis of the functioning of that network from the viewpoint of pedestrian and bicyclist users.

Background :

We do note that the importance of this recommendation of a pedestrian infrastructure inventory has been noted by others. In particular, it is listed as a recommendation Strategy 2 in the original County Executive Pedestrian Safety Initiative of 2007. As such we concur on the importance of this strategy and ask that it begin to be implemented.

Suggested implementation:

While the above recommended actions are important to improving the safety the nonautomotive users of our transportation system, the committee fully appreciates the current fiscal difficulties in fully and immediately implementing those recommendations. In light of that situation, the Committee suggests an initial inventory focus on small region with a high priority due to it current level of user and demonstrated rate of collisions rather than the entire County. Such an initial effort in addition to its lower implementation costs, could be used as a pilot program to determine in the field the benefit of this program and it may suggest ways to more efficiently expand the to implementation to other areas.